

To: Williams, Laura[williams.laura@epa.gov]; Calanog, Steve[Calanog.Steve@epa.gov]; Foster, Althea[Foster.Althea@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Mon 8/24/2015 10:42:22 PM
Subject: FW: Monday Operations -- re: JIC

We should discuss ..thanks ng

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas McNamara [mailto:Thomas.McNamara@co.laplata.co.us]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Joanne Spina
Cc: Butch Knowlton; Joe Kerby; Grantham, Nancy; Denney - CDPS, Trevor; Liane Jollon; patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us; Michael Davis; Weigel, Greg
Subject: Monday Operations

Joanne,

As we are working on winding things down here and preparing to move operations and right-size the response level we are going to work on transferring any items that are duplicative. On Friday the UC had begun plans to virtualize the JIC. CDPHE through Heather and Pat, SJBHD through Liane, and Durango through Amber had all agreed to continue participation as necessary going forward. It was understood to likely be remote. We were also working through continued refinement of the FAQ document to allow a smooth transition to the EPA 800#. Today the UC JIC was working through finalizing these plans and setting up a daily PIO call to keep information flowing.

Since these operations are also being handled through the Area Command, the UC JIC will be handing responsibility for finalizing the plans to Area Command. Unless we hear otherwise, we will assume that the Area Command will take this as well.

Tom McNamara
La Plata County OEM

From: Thomas McNamara
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 8:45 AM
To: Joanne Spina
Cc: Butch Knowlton; Joe Kerby

Just getting through meetings here at the UC The surface water sampling plan is being adjusted from 7 locations 7 days a week to 7 locations 2 days a week The groundwater sampling approach is being implemented to address the un-sampled wells in the highest risk areas One of our identified actions that will allow turning back our response is implementation of the medium or long term monitoring plans for surface and groundwater. Apparently this is being coordinated by Pete Foster through Area Command. We are talking about how to right size the JIC which includes a plan to decrease the size and regulate operations, move to a virtual JIC and develop the plan to move all call center operations to the EPA 800 number the FAQ sheets are being constantly updated to address concerns that come up and can be used for the 800# The Alert plan for call down in case of an event in the river or at the mine will be completed today Sediment data is trickling in, this is a requirement to determine need for the health advisory

Tom

From: Joanne Spina
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 8:34 PM
To: Thomas McNamara

Cc: Butch Knowlton; Joe Kerby
Subject: Re: A couple of issues

Thanks for your thorough and detailed email, Tom. I very much appreciate it. However, it appears that everyone may not have the same clear understanding as you do of the next steps regarding the call center. I attended a meeting this afternoon with the lead PIOs for the EPA, Nancy Grantham, and the State, Nathan Hunerwadel. The meeting was also attended by the two liaison officers, Mike Shanahan and Patti Tyler and Trevor Denny. Nathan once again asked about the call center and whether it should transition to the EPA. Just as at yesterday's meeting, I said that call needed to be made by our ICs (you and Butch) and that I would reach out to you again for a decision. Nathan is still awaiting a response to know what to do about the existing number, so perhaps you, Trevor and Butch need to talk to make sure that the direction of the UC regarding the call center transfer is relayed back to the Lead PIOs who are coordinating the call center. Thanks for taking care of that tomorrow. I will advise Nathan that you will be in touch with him.

With respect to the JIC itself, Trevor said the State would not be deploying any more state resources to staff the JIC. Nancy, the Lead PIO for the EPA, was concerned about that, pointing out that it's no longer a JIC if the State and local agencies pull out. She asked for continued State presence to help the EPA "translate" (i.e., create) more user friendly and understandable interpretations of the data being produced by the EPA. She said CDPHE and SJBHD would have an important role in communicating to the community what the data mean. I noted that it is the EPA's data and it seems that they should do the translation rather than other agencies. She has asked for that type of staff resource but did not think it would be brought to bear. However, after we continued to talk through it, we agreed it would be good to have a conversation with Liane and Pat Faltzgraff tomorrow to see what involvement, if any, they want to continue to have in a virtual JIC. I offered to reach out to Liane to try to coordinate that meeting tomorrow. It would be great if you could attend, so I'll let you know when it is arranged. The PIO team was very anxious to do it asap tomorrow. FYI, just to be team players, Sarah will participate in tomorrow's 8 am JIC mtg by phone and I will try to participate in the 4 pm meeting (probably by phone as well) to stay abreast of issues and keep communications channels open. It was very helpful that you participated in yesterday's 4 pm JIC meeting so as to carry the requests and info back to the UC.

Again, I appreciate your taking time today to share all the information you did in your email. Please know that I understand well the role of the IC and our need to channel policy requests of the Board through you and Butch to the UC. Let's hope, as you indicate, that we move into the next phase of the incident this week.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, and all our citizens, thanks for all the time and effort you and Buch have devoted to this response.

Sent from my iPad

> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:19 PM, Thomas McNamara <Thomas.McNamara@co.laplata.co.us> wrote:

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> Joanne,

> Most of the issues you are referring to are being addressed. Butch and I have been working together to represent the County needs through the UC which has been working well so far. Butch and I have been working with the other UCs and we are on the same track moving forward. Any other issues should be brought through Butch and I and into the UC as per ICS structure. In a Unified Command structure, the Unified Commanders are the Agency Administrators (Butch and I) and take direction from their Policy Group (You, Joe and the Commissioners).

> An example of this working relationship is in the green water. Butch was informed by you and Joe that the commissioners were getting community unrest regarding the green color. Butch relayed that to me. I ensured that this became an objective in the IAP. dedicated sampling was performed and a task force developed between CDPHE and EPA to find answers. These answers were shared between Wednesday and Thursday of last week internally and press releases created soon after.

> The JIC will close in concert with the UC. The UC is a function of the response activities related to the

impacts of the GKM release on La Plata County. The response phase is coming to a close and moving to the ongoing monitoring, education, mitigation and recovery. By the end of this week the Medium-term sampling plan will be in place and at that time the UC will close along with the JIC. Joint information can be produced and released through the UC PIO's separately and cleared by the UC. If there is a need for the County to continue information releases as to what we as an agency are doing, we can do that separately. While there may be a need for information this week, all other local partners are pulling back from the UC and JIC, which is a clear sign that the response portion of this incident is coming to a close.

> The Unified Command is working out the plan with the transition to the EPA's 800 number. We can assure you that this will not be lost in the background.

> Other issues brought up yesterday are also being handled by and through the UC. The UC has determined that there is no further need for public meetings at this time. If conditions change, that determination may change and we will address individual requests and needs. Public water systems and ditches will be handled through their regulatory agencies; CDPHE and CO-DWR respectively and will not need to be addressed through the JIC. Butch and I are working with the environmental team from the EPA under the UC to ensure that they formulate a strong relationship with local stakeholders in the scientific community (FLC, ASG, MSI, etc.). This should help the EPA participate in the growing coalition to address the long term and long standing health issues of the Animas.

> We have been pushing for an alert and warning system and have moved quite a long ways toward a permanent and multi-use system. Building from one of LPC OEM's grant projects slated for 2016, we are working with EPA, USGS, DNR, DOLA, CDEM, NOAA, NWS, BOR, CDPHE, Oklahoma University and the National Severe Storm Labs of Norman Oklahoma to fund, build and operate 5 river gauges. These will include flow, volume, turbidity, Electro-Conductivity, and pH on all and auto samplers on the two on the Animas. Locations will include on the Animas at Bakers Bridge and near 32nd, as well as Hermosa, Junction and Lightner Cks. The NSSL will design auto alerting programming to push through NWS and through automated call downs in CodeRED. CDPHE and DWR created a call down list in the interim and we will adapt that list to a small dam Emergency Operations Plan template from DWR or BOR.

> Susan and I have access to the GKM blog at this time and will maintain that access after the JIC is closed. Because it was designed under the UC, all UC participants will have access if they want it. After the UC and JIC are closed we will maintain ongoing relations with the EPA for information releases as necessary.

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> Butch and I will not be at the meeting this afternoon at 4. We will re-engage tomorrow morning.

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> Tom

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> From: Joanne Spina

> Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 9:28 AM

> To: Butch Knowlton; Thomas McNamara

> Cc: Joe Kerby

> Subject: A couple of issues

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> Good morning. There are a couple of issues that we should discuss together based on the JIC meeting yesterday afternoon that Tom and I attended. One is the issue of the call center and what you would like to see happen with that. The other relates to the JIC and the State's potential demobilization this week. I'll be at the FG this afternoon and will look for you to see if either of you are available. If we can't connect today (I'm hoping you are both trying to get a little time off), I'll reach out to you tomorrow. Thanks.

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> Sent from my iPad